

**PROCLAMATION
IN HONOR OF
DELAWARE POLLINATORS' WEEK**

***Whereas* pollinator species of bees, birds and others are essential partners of farmers and ranchers in producing much of our food supply; and**

***Whereas* approximately seventy five percent of the world's flowering plant species rely on pollinators to complete their life cycle and start seeds and fruit production; and**

***Whereas* our food supply and that of animals which provide us with meat and dairy products is largely dependent on pollinators successfully transferring pollen from one plant to another; and**

***Whereas* approximately 130 of the crop plants grown in the United States are pollinated by bees; and**

***Whereas* an estimated one out of every three bites of food we eat comes from a pollinator; and**

***Whereas* pollination by insects, birds and other animals is essential for maintaining the structure and function of our forests, our grasslands, and a wide range of natural communities in Delaware and the world; and**

***Whereas* many of our native pollinators are threatened by human activities, habitat loss, invasive species, and diseases; and**

***Whereas* there are many simple, low cost pollinator-friendly practices that can be utilized by homeowners, farmers, and land managers to protect our food and fiber supply and our quality of life; and**

***Whereas*, the State of Delaware, its colleges and universities provide farmers and the general public with conservation assistance to promote stewardship, including the protection and maintenance of pollinators and their habitats on farmlands, wildlands, and backyards;**

Now therefore, We, Jack Markell, Governor, and Matthew Denn, Lieutenant Governor, of the State of Delaware, do hereby recognize the importance of pollinators to our agricultural industry and our quality of life, and do declare the week of June 22 – 28, 2009 as:

Pollinators' Week

in the State of Delaware; and we urge all Delawareans to celebrate and understand these invaluable creatures, both small and large, bees, butterflies and other insects, birds and bats, and resolve to protect them and their habitats for future generations to come.